

Holocaust survivors and their heirs are being denied what is rightfully theirs. This is nothing more than white collar theft, and it is morally reprehensible. These heirs and survivors deserve what is rightfully theirs, and we will not give up until they are fully compensated.

AMERICA MUST REMAIN ENGAGED FOR PEACE TO TAKE HOLD IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on this day of focusing on national prayer for those who wish to express their faith in their different ways, I think it is an appropriate time to reinforce the importance of peace throughout this world. Particularly as the road map for Mideast peace has been unveiled, it is important to reinforce the key element of that process.

Two years ago, approximately, in February of 2001, I rose to the floor of the House to indicate that the only way that we would have peace in the Middle East is if the United States remained engaged. Unfortunately, that did not occur for a number of months, but I do believe that we are now on the road to peace.

The key element again will be, even if there are difficulties, we must remain engaged. Even as we work with the Palestinians to cease immediately the violence, to break up the terrorist groups, to remove the illegal weapons, we must work with the Israelis as it relates to the road map in stopping the expanding of the settlements, and, as well, the attacks on Palestinians.

These are not easy challenges, and we cannot be daunted by failure. We must continue to work for peace, because it is worth it for all of the people of that region.

THE JUDICIAL NOMINATION OF PRISCILLA OWENS

(Mr. HENSARLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage with the treatment of Justice Priscilla Owen, a fellow Texan and a highly qualified nominee for the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Mr. Speaker, despite unanimously receiving the highest possible rating from the American Bar Association, despite appearing before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary twice to answer every single question posed to her, despite the fact that the bench to which she has been nominated has been designated a judicial emergency, despite the strong bipartisan support of former Texas supreme court judges and 15 past presidents of the state bar of Texas, Justice Priscilla Owen has still

not received an up-or-down vote in the Senate for almost 2 years.

When Republicans held the majority during President Clinton's term, no judicial nominee was ever deprived of a vote due to a filibuster. Now Democrats want to undermine our Constitution and change the rules.

Mr. Speaker, the President has a right to get a vote on his nominee.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The Chair would remind all Members that it is not appropriate to characterize the action or inaction of the other body.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE ECONOMY

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on telecommunications and the economy. The telecommunications industry, Mr. Speaker, is in a state of crisis. Telecom jobs continue to shrink and capital continues to flow away from the industry.

When given the opportunity to help lead the telecommunications industry back on the road to health and fitness, the Federal Communications Commission failed miserably. I completely agree with the Communication Workers of America that the FCC "missed an opportunity to set out an effective national policy that would promote facilities-based competition in telecommunications."

Instead, the FCC left in place rules that require carriers to lease their network, or pieces of it, to competitors for below-cost rates. This policy has had a disastrous effect on the industry. Over half a million telecom jobs have been lost and investors have lost billions of dollars. The industry is in crisis, and some of that crisis can be traced directly to bad policy at the FCC. It is clear to me that the FCC did not adopt the right rules to promote telecommunications investment.

I sincerely hope that the FCC fixes this mess, or Congress will have to fix it.

FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, there is an epidemic of AIDS and HIV in Africa. It is heartbreaking to report this pandemic affecting 42 million souls, 8,500 deaths every day, and entire villages without a single adult.

Earlier this week we heard the President describe a compassionate vision of

moral obligation for the American people addressing this crisis that would bring not only \$15 billion, but would put a priority on the values of the American people, namely, abstinence and faithfulness to marriage, over condom distribution.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, unless the House amends the bill today and adopts the Hyde-Pitts amendment that specifies that 33 percent of the prevention money will be spent on abstinence and monogamy programs first over and above condom distribution, the global AIDS bill will not reflect the values of the American people or the vision of the President of the United States of America.

The timeless values of abstinence and marital faithfulness before condom distribution are the cure for what ails the families of Africa. It is important that we not just send them money, but we must send them values that work.

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AMERICAN PRIORITIES

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, perhaps some of us on our side of the aisle have been a little bit too critical of President Bush. After all he has in his budget a universal health care plan for 23 million people. He has in his budget money for school construction, 25,000 new schools, renovated schools, repaired schools.

The problem, Mr. Speaker, that is the President's budget for Iraq. Universal health coverage for 23 million Iraqis, school construction of 25,000 and renovation of 25,000 schools, but not a penny in the President's budget for school construction in this country, in spite of the fact that our school buildings, many of them are in awful shape, and not a penny for universal coverage of 40 million Americans without health insurance.

The reason? The tax cuts the President has asked for of \$500 billion in tax cuts. Half of those tax cuts go to the richest one percent of the people in the country. The people whose incomes average \$968,000. Money for school construction and health care in Iraq. No money for school construction and health care in the United States and tax cuts for the most privileged. It is the wrong priorities.

ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN PEACE

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note an encouraging sign that yesterday, the President of the United States evinced a willingness to become an active player in seeking a peaceful resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. And I do so because it is clear